WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 20TH OCTOBER 2008

Development of Chiria Mines

*21. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Arcelor Mittal has shown interest in joining hands with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), and is open for a Joint Venture (JV) agreement for developing the Chiria Mines;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to resolve the ongoing dispute between SAIL and the Jharkhand Government over Chiria Mines?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No such proposal has been brought to the notice of Ministry of Mines.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Differences between SAIL and the State Government of Jharkhand are the subject matter of court proceedings.

Beggars selling children in Kolkata

†*22. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that beggars are selling children in Kolkata;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this practice is not being controlled due to corruption; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The State Government of West Bengal have informed that it is not a fact that beggars are selling children in Kolkata.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

Judges (Inquiry) Bill

*23. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

#The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 20th October, 2008 was adjourned on account of the passing away of Shri Laxminarayan Sharma a sitting member. Answers to questions put down in the list for that day were laid on the table of the House on Tuesday, the 21st October, 2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether a Bill, empowering the people to complain against corrupt Judges, would remain a pipe-dream as Government is reportedly succumbing to pressure from some of its allies, keen to avoid a confrontation with the judiciary;

(b) whether this move is bound to raise eye-brows because the Supreme Court is at present struggling to constitute a probe panel into the multicrore Ghaziabad Provident Funds Scam, in which 36 Judges of the Apex Court are allegedly involved; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to shelve the Judges (Inquiry) Bill from becoming a law and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A Statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Statement

Empowering people to complain against corrupt Judges

(a) After examination of the Report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice on the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 and after careful consideration, the Government have decided to withdraw the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 and introduce the Judges (Inquiry) Amendment Bill, 2008 in the current session of Parliament.

2. The salient features of the proposed Bill are the following:

(i) A National Judicial Council would be set up consisting of the Chief Justice of India, two seniormost Judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of two High Courts, to be nominated by the Chief Justice of India.

(ii) The Council would be empowered to investigate and inquire into the allegations of misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge of the Supreme Court or a Judge of the High Court, excluding the Chief Justice of India.

(iii) Any person can make a complaint in writing to the Council in respect of a Judge.

(iv) In case the Council finds the charges of misbehaviour or incapacity to be proved, which do not warrant removal of a Judge, it may impose any or all of the following measures:

(a) Issuing advisory;

(b) Issuing warning;

(c) Withdrawal of judicial work for some time;

(d) Request that the Judge may voluntarily retire;

(e) Censure or admonition, public or private.

(v) In case the Council concludes that charges have been proved and that these warrant the removal of a Judge, it shall advise the President accordingly. The

President shall place the findings of the Council along with the accompanying material before the Parliament which would then act as per the prescribed procedure.

(vi) The Council shall issue a Code of Conduct containing Guidelines for conduct and behaviour of Judges.

Collaboration with foreign technological universities

*24. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow foreign technological universities to collaborate with Indian universities and institutes, to conduct joint programmes;

(b) whether suitable regulations in this regard have been brought out by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), it has received 56 proposals from Indian education providers to conduct technical education programmes in collaboration with Foreign Universities/Institutions. Six institutions have been registered by AICTE for providing technical education in India in collaboration with six foreign universities/institutions. Indian Universities being autonomous have, since 2004, been allowed to enter into MoU for collaborative research programmes with foreign universities/institutions of higher learning, and no prior permission of Central Government/State Governments or the University Grants Commission is necessary in that regard.

(b) and (c) At present, only All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations, which were last revised in the year 2005, for the entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions for imparting technical education in India. A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions, in India is under consideration of the Government.

Overdrawal of electricity from the Grid

*25. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued directions to State Governments to curb overdrawal of power/electricity from the Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of directions by the CERC, the States are violating the Indian